

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

L-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /099 W

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P R 291615Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3543

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3223

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN DISPUTE: VIEW FROM
NORTHERN GREECE

1. GENERAL RYDER, CHJUSMAGG, MADE FAREWELL VISITS
MAY 20-22 TO COMMANDERS OF C CORPS, 10TH DIVISION,
11TH DIVISION, 12TH DIVISION, 6TH DIVISION, 2ND DIVISION
AND 21ST BRIGADE.

2. HE DID NOT OBSERVE ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITY OR INCREASED
READINESS DUE TO GREEK-TURKISH SITUATION. AT SAME TIME
COMMANDERS OF 11TH AND 12TH DIVISIONS, NEAREST TO TURKISH
FRONTIER, FREELY DISCUSSED AEGEAN PROBLEM, TAKING
POSITION THAT ALTHOUGH TURKEY WAS NATO ALLY AND IT WOULD
BE FOOLISH FOR EITHER SIDE TO RESORT TO HOSTILE ACTION
THAT WOULD WEAKEN ALLIANCE, THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT
GREECE SHOULD NOT DEFEND WHAT WAS RIGHT OR WHAT WAS GREEK.

3. RYDER REPORTED HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT ALL GREEK
MILITARY PERSONNEL IN FIELD BELIEVED CONFLICT SHOULD BE
AVOIDED BUT WERE WILLING TO FACE SHOWDOWN IF IT BECAME
NECESSARY.

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4. IN EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT RISK CONTINUES TO EXIST OF

MISCALCULATION BY EITHER SIDE AND CONSEQUENT PRECIPITATE
REACTION THAT COULD LEAD TO MILITARY CLASH. ON GREEK
SIDE PROBLEM COMPOUNDED BY WELL-KNOWN GREEK PHILOTIMO
AS EVIDENCED BY STATEMENTS SUCH AS THAT OF KARAKOSTAS
MAY 28 EMPHASIZING GREECE'S "RESOLVE NOT TO ACCEPT, BY
ANY MEANS, ANY VIOLATION OF ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS BOTH
IN THE MAINLAND AND THE ISLANDS." THUS REPORT IN
ELEFTHEROS COSMOS MAY 29 ON KARAKOSTAS' MEETING
WITH PRESS APPEARS UNDER HEADLINE: "NO ONE WILL SET
FOOT ON GREEK TERRITORY."
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